

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM ~~SECRET~~
RELEASE AS SANITIZED

8 April 1954

MEMORANDUM ~~FOR THE~~ RECORD: 2003

SUBJECT: Procurement of Additional Aircraft and Crew

RE: LINC 1658 (IN 35062)

1. Preliminary investigation indicates that an additional cargo-type C-47 may be procured through a charter arrangement at an estimated price of approximately \$3500 per month. It is possible to lease this aircraft in the name of a cleared broker and either sublease to a fictitious firm or use in the name of the cleared broker. Security would be the determining factor regarding the leasing arrangement which should be used.
2. In addition to the estimated \$3500 a month which totals approximately \$7,000 for the period desired plus an additional \$2,000 to restore the aircraft to its former condition after Agency sterilization has been accomplished. It will be necessary for the Agency to be liable for the total cost of the aircraft in the event of operational loss on or internment, as maintaining commercial insurance on the aircraft would expose all details which is undesirable from a security standpoint. The usual sale value of a C-47 in good condition is somewhere between \$60-85,000 depending on the individual aircraft.
3. PM/AMD is also investigating the possibility of obtaining a C-47 from the Air Force on a loan basis. Should this prove feasible, the cost will run roughly \$2,000. It is estimated that this sum would be required to replace the aircraft to Air Force standards after our sterilization.
4. Procurement of the stand-by aircraft will cost somewhere between \$2500 and \$4,000 for the period desired if an option is obtained on the commercial market. However, it is felt that arrangements can be made with the Air Force for the use of an aircraft on a emergency basis with little or no cost involved.
5. Information obtained to date indicates that the crew situation does not pose too great problem. It is considered feasible to switch one of the Cat. pilots to first pilot on the third C-47 and utilize the combination Crew Chief - co-pilot as a co-pilot on the third aircraft. This would require the recruitment of one additional co-pilot. However, this would not pose a problem as AMD has an individual on tap who may be used provided his clearance can be expedited. Further action is being taken to procure one additional crew chief through the channels utilized in procuring the combination crew-Chief - co-pilot.
6. Therefore, in view of the above, it is believed that LINCOLN requirement can be handled without too great a difficulty.

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PM/AMD